
FALMOUTH HARBOUR

COMMISSIONERS

NEWSLETTER

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New Pilot Boat Named by Lord Lieutenant

The naming ceremony for the new pilot boat ARROW took place on the 2nd December. The Boat was named by Lady Mary Holborow Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall before an assembly of invited guests and staff members, past and present with their families. Guests were invited to look around the new vessel and to attend a lecture on its ordering and construction given jointly by Falmouth's Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback and Andrew Ridley, Port Engineer for PD Teesport who took delivery of the first vessel built as part of this order.



Lady Mary Holborow Presides at the Pilot Boat Naming Ceremony

Environmental Impact Assessment Contract Signed

A contract for the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Falmouth Cruise Project was signed with leading environmental consultants Royal Haskoning on the 1st March. The assessment will look in detail at all the possible environmental effects of the project identified by consultation of a scoping document produced last year. It is expected that the assessment which will include the collection and analysis of seabed samples, design for the safe re-use of contaminated material and a study on the possible beneficial relocation of calcified seaweed. The studies are expected to take at least a year to complete.

CCTV Assists in Solving Mystery

Security TV at the Visitors Yacht Haven was instrumental in solving the mystery of a yacht and tender found abandoned in Falmouth Bay triggering a large scale search. The footage showed two young men gaining access to the Yacht Haven from where the tender was taken. A copy of the footage was provided to the police who had it shown on television. Two men later visited Falmouth Police station confirming that they were not lost at sea as had originally been feared.

New Commissioner Appointed

John Langan is the latest recruit to the ranks of the harbour commissioners having successfully applied for the vacancy created by John Bottomley who left the Board after six years of service. John who owns and manages Challenger Marine brings with him valuable experience in management of small marine businesses. John already has substantial experience of harbour management issues having been a founder member of the Board's Consultative Committee which was formed in 2000.



John Langan

New Staff Member Appointed

Due to further increases in turnover, the Commissioners have recruited Lesley Allen as the new Finance and Administration Officer. The post has been created in a re-organisation aimed at centralising core functions and relieving Leisure Services Manager Barry Buist of his finance commitments to allow him more freedom to develop the small business operations. Lesley is already familiar with the operations of the Commissioners as she has been involved with their accounts and auditing for many years whilst in the employ of local accounting firms. Chief Executive Mark Sansom is delighted to be able to add Lesley to the staff. "Lesley has a wide range of skills that will benefit us enormously" he commented. "Her appointment reflects the steady increase in business, particularly on the leisure side, that we are experiencing and the need to adapt the Organisation to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders".

David Roberts Retires

Pilot Boat Coxswain David Roberts retired in February after 30 years engaged in the transportation of pilots to ships in the Falmouth Area. His retirement party held at the Falmouth Watersports Centre brought together a number of former pilots and boats crew who wanted to wish David well with his future plans. David has not given up his involvement with Boats. He and his wife Vicky have purchased a barge and plan to spend their retirement cruising on the canals.

Falmouth Well Represented at Channel Ports Launch

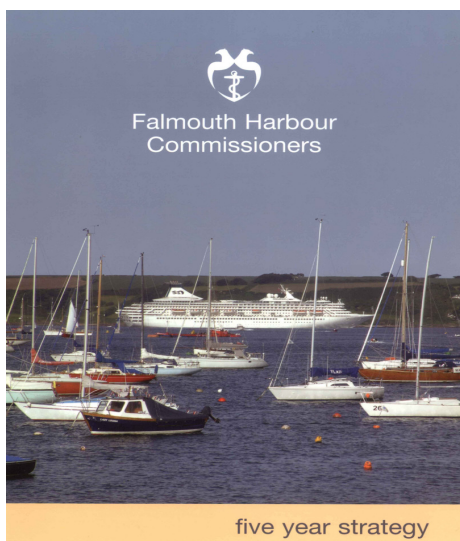
Falmouth was well represented at a recent launch of the Federation of Regional and Local Channel Ports in St Brieuc in Brittany. The Federation has been formed to strengthen the identity of the Channel Area as a European zone and to increase the co-operation and collaboration of the Channel Ports. Falmouth Harbour Master Mark Sansom represented the South West Regional Ports Association and signed the charter on their behalf. Also present were Mike Reynolds representing A & P Falmouth and Commissioner Karen Sumser-Lupson who was attending on behalf of the University of Plymouth.

New Regulation Measures for Summer Season

The Commissioners have resolved to further increase their regulation effort for 2007 in light of increasing levels of concern about the navigation of leisure craft during the busy summer months. A new Orkney launch has been ordered for use collecting mooring and anchorage fees in the inner harbour leaving the fast launch KILLIGREW to spend more time patrolling the Carrick Roads and off the beaches. Funding has also been put in place for an additional seasonal member of staff specialising in regulation and investigation of incidents.

Strategy Document Launched

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have published their strategy document which was produced after wide consultation with stakeholders. It was drafted by a board sub-committee chaired by Deputy Chairman Peter Morgan set up for the purpose. "The strategy provides an improved framework for managing the harbour and targeting resources" he commented. Copies of the document are available from the Harbour Office and are also available for download from the web site.



Public Meeting Date Fixed

The Commissioners will hold their public meeting in the Lecture Theatre of the National Maritime Museum at **7.30 pm on Thursday 29th March 2007**. The meeting will consist of a presentation of the Commissioners' Annual Report and will be followed by a presentation from Royal Haskoning about the Environmental Impact Assessment for the planned Falmouth Cruise Project. Chairman Andrew Bell said "we regard the public meeting as a vital element of our public consultation strategy. We are particularly pleased this year to have the opportunity to get feedback about the proposed Environmental Impact Assessment for this vital Project".

2006 FHC Award Presented

Roger Hollingsworth was the popular recipient of the 2006 FHC award presented for services to safety, port promotion and the environment. Roger has substantial credentials in all these areas as he has worked tirelessly for the Port of Falmouth Sailing Association for many years improving race safety. He has also been heavily involved in the promotion of Falmouth for Falmouth Regatta Week and chairs the advisory group for the Special Area of Conservation.



Roger Hollingsworth Receives his Award from Peter Morgan

Commissioners Support Fireworks and Flowers

Following a request from the Town Centre Manager David Lang, the Commissioners have agreed to support the Falmouth Week Fireworks for 2007 with a £3000 sponsorship deal. They also agreed to provide £500 for a new watering system for hanging baskets in the Town during the Summer. Chairman Andrew Bell said "we are delighted to be the main sponsor for the Falmouth Week fireworks display again in 2007. We recognise all the hard work that goes into the organising the racing and the first rate shoreside events that benefit both the Harbour and the Town and are pleased to continue our support".

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners
44 Arwenack St Falmouth TR11 3JQ
01326 312285
www.falmouthport.co.uk

Falmouth Cruise Project EIA: Invitation to Stakeholders Meeting

7.30 Thursday 29th March

National Maritime Museum Cornwall Lecture Theatre

Falmouth Harbour is one of the world's largest natural deepwater harbours and strategically well-placed to provide support to shipping operating in North West Europe. The Port itself covers 76 acres and has 1150 metres of working wharves. Falmouth Docks provides ship repair and conversion as well as providing extensive quayside facilities for cruise ships and commercial cargo vessels.

Cruise ships have been visiting Falmouth at a markedly increased rate since 2001, attracted to the Port as a result of the highly successful marketing campaign: Destination South West. However, the Port's success in attracting larger cruise ships has been limited because of the lack of facilities able to receive such vessels alongside. The landside facilities are very limited, the wharves require improvements to the approach channels and berthing facilities are currently too shallow.

In view of this situation, Falmouth Harbour Commissioners (FHC) and Falmouth Docks and Engineering Co. Ltd (FDEC) are jointly proposing to undertake a comprehensive scheme to improve access to the harbour, construct a terminal and improve wharf facilities at Falmouth. The proposals involve capital dredging to deepen the approach channel. An indicative plan of the dredge is shown in Figure 1.

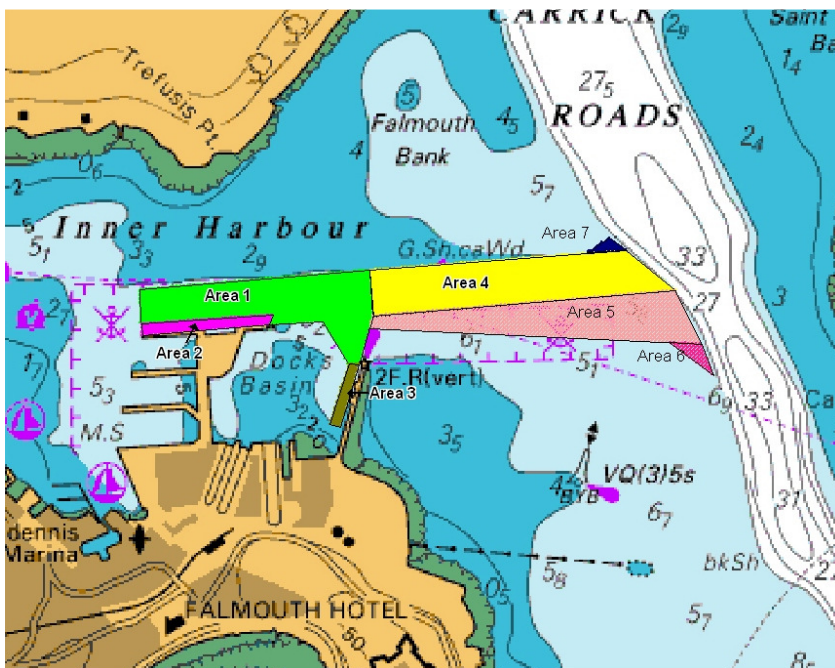


Figure 1: Proposed dredge area

FHC have commissioned Royal Haskoning to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed deepening of the approach channel and associated works.

The aim of the presentation will be as follows:

- To formally introduce the scheme to FHC stakeholders
- To explain the nature of the proposals and answer queries on the proposals.
- To provide an opportunity to discuss with stakeholders any comments or concerns that they may have about the proposals.